

Site: M:26/16/5

Haiti Cemetery

205 Martin's Lane

Established:
late 19th century

Private

Haiti Cemetery is the earliest known burying ground for black residents in Rockville. It was first used in the late 19th century for members of families who lived in the Martin's Lane area. The earliest gravestone is that of Charlotte Penny, who died in 1889; she received the lot on which the cemetery is sited from the estate division of her grandfather, Samuel Martin. The cemetery contains approximately 30 east-orienting grave markers, which range from wrought-iron-fenced family plots to small metal funeral home markers.

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No. 1651475608

DOE ☐ yes ☒ noNR ☐ yes ☒ NO

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Haiti Cemetery

and/or common Haiti Cemetery

2. Location

street & number 205 Martin's Lane ☐ not for publicationcity, town Rockville ☐ vicinity of congressional district 8

state Maryland county Montgomery (RV Planning Area 4)

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Frances M. Crutchfield, c/o Henry W. Crutchfield

street & number P. O. Box 282 telephone no.: 762-2932

city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20850

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Land Records liber JA6

street & number Montgomery County Courthouse folio 150

city, town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission

date 1976 ☐ federal ☒ state ☒ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Park Historian's Office, Needwood Mansion, Needwood Road

city, town Derwood state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. M: 26/16/5

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Haiti Cemetery is located at the far northern end of a long, narrow lot on the north side of Martin's Lane. The cemetery itself occupies approximately three-quarters of an acre and is hidden from view on the south and west by dense foliage. The cemetery is bounded by a wire fence on the west, north and east sides.

The cemetery contains approximately 30 grave markers, the earliest dating from 1889 and the latest, 1983. Most graves are marked with stones of granite or poured concrete with carved inscriptions, although one dated 1910 appears hand lettered in concrete. Several of the newer graves, as recent as 1982 and 1983, have small metal grave markers provided by the Snowden Funeral Home. Ranks of regular depressions in the earth suggest that there are many unmarked graves as well.

All graves orient to the east. While there is no clear pattern to the layout of the gravesites, most of the older graves are in the north and the later graves to the south.

The cemetery contains four wrought-iron-fenced family plots, overgrown with shrubs and vines. These plots have grave markers in various states of repair. Some stones are tipped over or have sunk into the ground, and urns for flowers have been overturned and broken.

8. Significance

Survey No. M: 26/16/5

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history |

Specific dates late 19th century Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☒ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Significance

Haiti Cemetery was the earliest burying ground for black residents in Rockville. It was first used in the late 19th century for members of families who lived in the Martin's Lane area.

History and Support

Tradition tells that the Haiti Cemetery was started in the fourth quarter of the 19th century when an heir of Samuel Martin sold grave sites to members of local black churches on an unused portion of a garden behind her house.^{1/}

Martin's Lane was the dividing line between Margaret Beall's property to the south and Samuel Martin's to the north. Miss Beall, who lived in the Beall-Dawson House on West Montgomery Avenue, sold land (often with existing houses) to several former slaves; members of these families continued to work for Beall and Dawson heirs well into the 20th century.

Samuel Martin was born a slave to the Nichols family near Rockville about 1800. When he died in 1873, he left considerable fortune and property, as well as the respect of those who knew him. ^{2/} His children divided up the farm north of Martin's Lane, constructing homes as each generation necessitated.

In the division of her grandfather's estate, Charlotte Penny received the westernmost lot on "the lane leading from the Frederick Road to the farm of John T. Vinson," (now Martin's Lane), identified in his 1873 will as Lot No. 1 on Plat No. 1. Martin had divided this $8 \frac{3}{4}$ acre portion of his property into five lots of $1 \frac{3}{4}$ acres each. ^{3/} Charlotte Penny, "of Washington City in the District of Columbia," took title to her portion in August 1883. ^{4/}

Following land exchanges with her brother, Thomas P. Martin, Charlotte Penny sold the unimproved parcel four years later to her sister,

continued on attachment 8.1

Agatha P. Smith. 5/ The Smiths probably constructed a home on this property soon after, for they mortgaged it in 1890 in order to secure a \$500 loan; the loan was made by the Home Mutual Building Association of Montgomery County to the Trustees "who want to erect a new house of divine worship...for use and occupation of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of Rockville."6/ The release was recorded in 1894.

The Smiths may have begun making their land available to local families for burials in the early 1880s, for the earliest readable stone, that of Charlotte Penny, is dated 1889. Two sales of burial lots were recorded in the early 20th century; Eliza and George Patterson purchased "150 square feet, more or less, being a burial lot in the private cemetery of Smith and wife" in 1906. Eliza Douglas bought 110 square feet in 1908, "and the same lot wherein the late Liz Douglas is now buried, including one more foot of land in the Walk Way the length of the said lot facing thereon. And the said Agatha Smith covenants to warrant generally the land herein conveyed."7/

The Haiti area of Rockville also became a focus for black families who worked in Washington, DC, often for the government. They resided in the city close to their places of employment, coming to Rockville for summers and weekends. Other Haiti residents lived on Martin's Lane year round.

Haiti Cemetery remained in the same ownership as the westernmost house on the north side of Martin's Lane. Burials slowed down considerably after 1917, when the Order of Galilean Fishermen purchased land in Lincoln Park for use as a cemetery.

U. Grant Smith owned the property for many years. The last resident of the house was Mrs. Frances "Lottie" Johnson Crutchfield. The Crutchfield house was torn down in the early 1970s, but the family still maintains the cemetery. The last burial was 1983.

Almost all of the individuals buried at Haiti Cemetery are related to one another, and many of the families now living on Martin's Lane are direct descendants of the people who first settled there in the 19th century.

See attachments 8.2, 8.3 for list of stones and burials.

Footnotes:

1. William Wood, "Haiti Cemetery Holds City's Past." Montgomery County Sentinel, February 15, 1979
2. Montgomery County Will Records, Inventory RWC7/122 (1873) and obituaries.
3. Montgomery County Judgment Records, EBP 14/120 (1873-1883).
4. Montgomery County Land Records EBP29/252 (1883)
5. Ibid., JA6/150 (1887)
6. Ibid., JA20/393 and JA20/395 (1890)
7. Ibid., 192/105 (1906) and 198/102 (1908)

M:26/16/5
Haiti Cemetery
Attachment 8.2

LIST OF STONES IN HAITI CEMETERY (1972 or 1986) by Eileen McGuckian

Cora M. Hodge (d. 1927)
Alonzo Hodge (d. 1922)
Sadie J. Ball (1878 - 1919)
Margaret A., wife of Samuel Mason (March 24, 1870 - Nov. 24, 1912)
Edward Wood (Sept. 14, 1872 - April 15, 1956)
Cora J. Wood (May 12, 1873 - Dec. 20, 1939)
Horace Sedgwick (1859 - 1927)
Emma Sedgwick (1863 - 1932)
Lucy Book (d. 1937)
Virginia Broadnick (1896 - 19--)
Rachel Emma Carroll (b. 1884 d.1979, age 95) (Funeral Home Marker)
Nicholas W. Robinson (March 1, 1858 - Oct. 18, 1932)
Janie Martin (b. 8-5-97, d. 2-4-83) (Funeral Home Marker)
George Wesley Meads, Sr. (d. Sept. 1919)
Rosa Rozier Meads (d. Jan. 1902)
George Wesley Meads, Jr. (d. Aug. 1910)
Charlotte L. Penny (b. Feb. 19, 1839, d. Dec. 10, 1889)
Catherine M. Martin (d. Oct. 17, ---2)
Otho Martin (d. Nov. 27, 1893)
Annie E. Robinson (Jan. 11, 1863 - Feb. 22, 1922)
Chalott Johnson (June 3, 1845 - Jan. 29, 1918)
Derrick Eugene Martin (d. May 16, 1970, age 4 yrs. 28 days)
(Funeral Home Marker)
Herman Offutt (b. Nov. 26, 1902, d. May 10, 1935)
Maggie Johnson (b. Feb. 8, 1860, d. Sept. 18, 1911)
Wm. H. Johnson ("1845, his wife")
Charles Douglass (b. 1845)
Adam J. Powell (d. May 14, 1898)
Martin Broadnic (d. Feb. 18, 1910)
Mary F. Magee, wife of H. Magee (d. June 16, 1913)
Initialed stones:
C. E. P.
E. D.
C. D.
N. 9. Sept.1 Webster

PERSONS BURIED IN HAITI CEMETERY AS REMEMBERED BY WILLIAM WOOD, 1979
his father and mother (Edward & Cora J. Wood, Lived on N. Washington St.)
his grandfather (no name given, also lived on N. Washington St.)
his grandmother Charlotte Johnson
Willie & Henson Johnson
John and Molly Baker
Annie & Charles & daughter Sarah _____
Martin Broadnic
Adam J. Powell
George Meads (deputy sheriff, 1897 fire chief)
George W. Johnson (Mr. T., Restaurateur)
Nathan Webster
Willie Offutt
Lottie & Richard Crutchfield & children
Walter McElroy
Lucy & George Book
Otho Tyler
Liza and Charles Douglas and daughter Lizzie

M:26/16/5
Haiti Cemetery
Attachment 8.3

HENRY CRUTCHFIELD REMEMBERS THE FOLLOWING BURIALS:

Sam Mason
Dennis & Grant Smith
Carroll Family

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M: 26/16/5

Interview with Henry Crutchfield, June 1986; "Haiti Cemetery Holds City's Past" By William Wood, Montgomery County Sentinel, Feb. 15, 1979; Interview with William Wood, 1972; Peerless Rockville Files.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 0.68 acres

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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Verbal boundary description and justification

2 lots near Rockville, part of "Exchange and New Exchange Enlarged."

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

11. Form Prepared By

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| name/title | Eileen McGuckian | Mary Fitch, Arch. Description |
| organization | Peerless Rockville | date June 1986 |
| street & number | P. O. Box 4262 | telephone 762-0096 |
| city or town | Rockville | state Maryland 20850 |

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

1982

City of Rockville

scale: 1"= 600'

M:26/16/5

4

Haiti Cemetery

205 Martin's Lane





MEADS

FATHER

GEORGE WESLEY SR

Died Sep. 30, 1919

MOTHER

ROSSA BOZIER

Died Jan. 21, 1902

BROTHER

GEORGE WESLEY JR

Died Aug. 23, 1919

RICHARD H. ANDREWS
424-8282
1608 FARRAGUT AVE.
ROCKVILLE, MD 20851

048607A04

M: 26/16/5-
Hart Cemetery
Martin's Lane
Rockville
6-86

5-86

A black and white photograph of a gravestone for Cora J. Wood. The stone is a light-colored, rounded rectangular slab set in a wooded area with trees and brush in the background. The inscription is clearly visible on the front of the stone.

CORA J. WOOD
MAY 12, 1873
DEC. 20, 1939

RICHARD H. ANDREWS
424-8282
1608 FARRAGUT AVE.
ROCKVILLE, MD 20851

M: 26/10/5
Hart Cemetery
Martin's Lane
Rockville

048607A02

6-86



RICHARD H. ANDREWS
424-8282
1608 FARRAGUT AVE.
ROCKVILLE, MD 20851

048607A08

M: 26/16/5
Hart Cemetery
Martins Lane
Rockville
6-86